

Industry Research Tops \$100 Million

Tobacco industry funding of independent scientific research into the perplexing questions surrounding cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and other chronic diseases, has passed the \$100 million level and has reached nearly \$104 million.

Some \$76 million of the total has been given in grants by the Council for Tobacco Research, called the sponsoring agent for the world's largest non-governmental research program on smoking and health.

CTR, funded by the major U.S. tobacco companies, was established in 1954—10 years before the Surgeon General's report on cigarette smoking and lung cancer—as the Tobacco Industry Research Committee. Among the early leaders was Dr. Clarence Cook Little, a world-famous geneticist who had helped establish the American Cancer Society.

Little, in 1955, made a statement which still might be considered CTR's rationale:

"The history of cancer research is a record of slow but steady progress. There is every reason to expect marked advances in the prevention, treatment, and cure of cancer.

"This is also true of the other constitutional diseases, such as heart ailments, which are our greatest present and future health challenges.

"But this will take time, and we cannot count on shortcuts. Neither the generating of unnecessary fears, nor the arousing of unfounded hopes, will hasten the coming of significant

discoveries.

"Progress in the battle against these great health problems has depended and will depend on solidly planned and well-executed scientific research."

CTR does not have its own research facilities. Its grants, approved by an independent board of 10 eminent scientists and physicians, go directly to institutions and laboratories. It has funded more than 420 scientists at more than 260 medical schools, hospitals, and research facilities. These scientists have complete freedom to publish their findings and have contributed more than 1,925 papers and reports to medical and scientific publications.

Unique Funding

The tobacco industry also provided a 10-year, \$15 million grant to an affiliate of the American Medical Association to study smoking and health issues. Between 1964 and 1975, 844 researchers in 98 institutions produced 795 publications and reports on tobacco and health.

The cigarette companies have also contributed to major research programs at three universities:

- The industry has committed \$5.4 million to a concentrated research effort at Washington University, St. Louis, where a team of scientists is attempting to answer basic questions about cancer.

Said the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, in a 1980 feature story about this program: "For nine years, a prestigious

group of researchers at Washington University has been quietly working with millions of dollars from the nation's leading cigarette manufacturers in an effort to untangle the cellular snarl of cancer."

"The tobacco industry money is unique because it comes with no strings attached," Dr. Paul E. Lacy, who heads the research effort, told the newspaper.

"It's almost unbelievable," Lacy said. "They didn't tell us what to do. They didn't try to guide the research. They have never once asked, 'Hey, do you have a cure for cancer yet?'"

In the last two years, 25 published research papers have credited tobacco industry sponsorship of this program, which is also funded by Federal Government and the American Cancer Society.

- The industry contributed \$4.7 million to a research program, begun in 1972 at Harvard Medical School, to analyze pulmonary and cardiovascular

diseases. The program also evaluated environmental factors that may be important in the development of these diseases.

- In 1974, the tobacco industry began what has become a \$2.75 million research commitment at the UCLA School of Medicine for research into lung defense mechanisms, and the early detection and treatment of cancer. That medical school is noted for its strong research programs on tumors, the blood, and the body's defense mechanisms.

Over and above this \$104 million research program, some of the major cigarette manufacturers contribute on their own for biomedical research at medical and scientific institutions from coast to coast.

A Tobacco Institute news release on industry research says, "The tobacco industry stands ready today to make new commitments for additional valid scientific research that may shed light on the question of smoking and health."

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